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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Item 71 of the preliminary list*
GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 10 June 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text of a statement made on 2 June 1996 by the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Boris N. Yeltsin, concerning the removal from Ukraine of the nuclear warheads situated in its territory since the breakup of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 71 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) S. LAVROV

* A/51/50.

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Annex

Statement issued on 2 June 1996 by the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Boris N. Yeltsin, concerning the removal from Ukraine of the nuclear warheads situated in its territory since the break-up of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Today, 2 June 1996, marks the completion of the removal from Ukraine of the nuclear warheads situated in its territory since the breakup of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

This was made possible by close cooperation between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Although at times difficult political, economic and technical problems had to be solved, common sense and the two sides' commitment to their international obligations always won out. Thus, the relevant provisions of the Lisbon Protocol have been carried out, and Ukraine's decision to become a non-nuclear-weapon State has become a reality.

I should like to express my sincere thanks to the diplomats, Russian servicemen, and specialists and staff of the various ministries and departments who took part in this operation, the scale and complexity of which is without precedent. At all stages of the operation, the safe keeping and security of the nuclear warheads were guaranteed, beginning with their removal from the delivery vehicles, their transport and, finally, their dismantlement at enterprises of the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy.

A positive aspect of this operation was the cooperation with the United States of America under the Tripartite Agreements of 14 January 1994 between the Presidents of the Russian Federation, the United States of America and Ukraine.

The Russian Federation is prepared to continue to deepen its cooperation with Ukraine in matters of security with a view to strengthening peace for the benefit of the fraternal peoples of the two countries.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Item 19 of the preliminary list*
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON
THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO
COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 7 June 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit a copy of the official communiqué on Western Sahara issued by the Spanish Government on 3 June 1996. I should be grateful if you would have it distributed as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 19 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Juan Antonio YAÑEZ-BARNUEVO

* A/51/50.

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ANNEX

Official communiqué on Western Sahara issued by the Spanish Government on 3 June 1996

The United Nations Security Council has approved resolution 1056 (1996) of 29 May 1996 on Western Sahara, in which, on the proposal of the Secretary-General, it decides to suspend the voter identification process for the referendum and significantly reduces the strength of the civilian component of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). Nevertheless, it maintains practically intact its military presence for monitoring the maintenance of the cease-fire.

The Security Council has not suspended the Settlement Plan, nor has it abandoned its commitment to secure a just and lasting solution to the question of Western Sahara through the holding of the referendum on self-determination in accordance with the Settlement Plan. Accordingly, in addition to maintaining its military presence, it has decided to maintain a political office in the zone and to request the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to break the impasse in the situation.

The Spanish Government reiterates its traditional position of principle to the effect that the problem of Western Sahara will be definitively resolved only through the self-determination of the Saharan people by means of a free referendum with international guarantees.

The Government expresses its concern at the suspension of the voter identification operation and the impasse in the settlement process, and underlines the importance of maintaining the climate of harmonious coexistence among the peoples of the Maghreb. In its contacts with the United Nations, the parties and interested countries, the Government will insist on the importance of the cease-fire that has been in force since 1991 and on the desirability of a prompt renewal of the voter identification process and the other aspects of the Settlement Plan, and will encourage them to work in a spirit of compromise for the solution of the present problems with a view to the future of the territory and to the peace and prosperity of the region.